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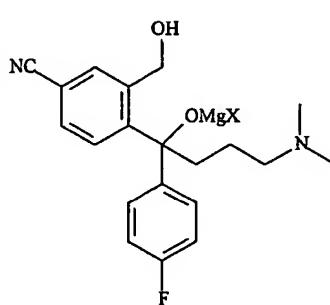
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(54) Title: **METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF CITALOPRAM**



(I)

(57) Abstract: A method for the preparation of citalopram and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts is described; it's obtained starting from 5-cyanophthalide by reaction with a mixture of 4fluorophenyl magnesium bromide and 3-dimethylaminopropyl magnesium chloride. The intermediate obtained is showed here-below: wherein X is an halogen, preferably chlorine or bromine, which is cyclized without any isolation.

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